

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 5, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
  - a display unit to display a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;
  - a storage unit, coupled to said display unit, to store a first table with position information that indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit, a second table with line information that identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects, and a third table with preceding information that identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and
  - an editor, coupled to said display unit and said storage unit, to delete the second object and to connect the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables in said storage unit, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust a distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.
2. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 1, wherein said editor displays the third object in a position where the second object used be displayed when the second object is selected and deleted.
3. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 1,
  - further comprising a coordinate system providing unit providing a virtual coordinate system in which each box is defined as an area for displaying an object,
  - wherein said display unit displays each object using the virtual coordinate system and said editor locates each object using the virtual coordinate system.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:
  - a display unit displaying a graphic including a plurality of first objects, a second object connected to the plurality of first objects and a plurality of third objects connected to the second object; and

an editor deleting the second object and separately connecting each of the plurality of first objects and each of the plurality of third objects automatically when the second object is selected.

7. (currently amended) A graphic editing device, comprising:

a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects, when the second object is selected and dragged from the graphic to a predetermined area positioned away from the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.

8. (currently amended) A graphic editing device, comprising:

a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects, when the second object is selected and dragged to a specific relative position from a position of the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.

9. (currently amended) The graphic editing device according to claim 7, wherein said editor automatically corrects a distance between the first and third objects according to a predetermined condition.

10. (original) The graphic editing device according to claim 7, further comprising a management unit managing a sequence of the objects, said management unit manages the third object as a subordinate object to the first object, if the second object is subordinate to the first object and the third object is subordinate to the second object before the second object is deleted.

11. (previously presented) A graphic editing method, comprising:

displaying a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;

storing in a first table position information which indicates a position of each object displayed;

storing in a second table line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;

storing in a third table preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and

deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

12. (currently amended) A graphic editing method, comprising:

displaying a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects, when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area positioned away from the connected first, second and third objects to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted and no longer directly connected to the first and third objects or indirectly connected to the first and third objects through other objects.

13. (previously presented) A storage medium that stores a program to control a computer to perform a process comprising:

displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;

storing in a first table position information which indicates a position of each object displayed;

storing in a second table line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;

storing in a third table preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and

deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

14. (currently amended) A storage medium that stores a program executed by a

computer, the program comprising:

a program code of displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

a program code automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects, when the second object is selected and dragged from the graphic to a predetermined area positioned away from the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.

15. (previously presented) A graphic editing device, comprising:

displaying means for displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines;

first table means for storing position information which indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit;

second table means for storing line information which identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects;

third table means for storing preceding information which identifies an object preceding each object, if any; and

editing means for deleting the second object and connecting the first and the third objects according to contents of said first, second and third table means, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

16. (currently amended) A graphic editing device, comprising:

displaying means for displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and

editing means for automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects, when the second object is selected and dragged from the graphic to a predetermined area positioned away from the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.